

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: July 12, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *UConn Guest Policy* – Per the request of Council, UConn's guest policy has been included in the packet as an attachment to the Community/Campus Relations [business item](#).
- *Quality of Life Violations* – Council requested a breakdown between owner-occupied and rental properties included in the previously-distributed tabulation of quality of life violations. This information is also included as an attachment under the Community/Campus Relations [business item](#).
- *Employee Compensatory Time Accrual* – In the recent past, citizens have expressed concern regarding the amount of compensatory time that a few key town employees accrue by working additional hours to coordinate and oversee special town events, such as *Celebrate Mansfield Weekend* and the *Tour de Mansfield* bike ride. We are fortunate to have many volunteers from the community who perform the bulk of the work to coordinate and put on these special events. However, some events are sponsored directly by the town and we need the assistance of our employees in order to ensure the events are successful. Management does monitor this issue and in our opinion the benefits to the community far outweigh the costs associated with the employee compensatory time earned to coordinate these special events.
- *Special Town Council Meeting, School Building Project* – I have distributed copies of the [agenda](#) for Council's upcoming work session on the proposed school building project. We will meet here in the Council Chambers at 6:30 PM this Thursday, July 15, 2010. Cherie and I will have additional information available, particularly some new cost projections that incorporate different revenue forecasts.

Departmental/Division News

- *Emergency Management*
 - Forecasters predict higher than average heat and humidity over the next several days for our area. Residents who may be sensitive to the heat are urged to take advantage of air conditioning, avoid strenuous activity, stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, and to avoid hot foods and cooking during a heat alert. Taking lukewarm showers or baths and wearing light-colored, loose clothing also help beat the heat. The following Town facilities are air conditioned and will be open to any residents who are seeking relief from the heat: Mansfield Senior Center: 8:30-4:30 (M-F); Mansfield Public Library: M,F- 9-5; T,W, Th- 9-8; Sat.- 10-5; Mansfield Community Center: 5:30-10:00 (M-Sat.); Sunday- 8-9
 - On June 30, 2010, the State of Connecticut announced the opening of the registration website for CT Alert (www.ctalert.gov), the nation's first statewide emergency notification system (ENS) enabling Mansfield and Connecticut officials to communicate critical information to hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents and businesses before, during and after emergencies. Please see [item number 15](#) in your packet for more information.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center Project* – Today Congressman Joseph “Joe” Courtney and Federal Transit Administration Administrator Peter Rogoff announced a \$4.9 million transportation grant for the Storrs Center project. This grant will support the construction of an intermodal hub as part of the intermodal transportation center, the design and construction of the Village Street that runs through the core of the project, as well as the walkway and streetscape enhancements, signals, lighting and signage, along Village Street. I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the efforts of staff members who prepared the grant submission, most notably Cynthia van Zelm, Lon Hultgren and Gregory Padick. With this grant, the Storrs Center project is the recipient of over \$23 million in state and federal funding – this is a tremendous accomplishment for Cynthia, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and our community.

Member Organizations

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership* - Storrs Center announced that a tenth letter of intent agreement has been signed with *Insomnia Cookies*. *Insomnia Cookies* is a unique business that offers fresh-baked cookies for late-night delivery. *Insomnia Cookies* has nineteen locations on or near college campuses; the Storrs location will be the company's twentieth store.
- *Windham Chamber of Commerce* - The Chamber will be hosting a gubernatorial candidate forum on Thursday, July 29 at 7:30 am at the Nathan Hale Inn & Conference Center in Storrs. Candidates running for governor will be asked questions about their policies and viewpoints. This is a great opportunity for citizens and businesses in the Eastern part of CT to voice their opinions about how the state should be run and to make informed decisions about who is best to serve as our next governor. Candidates include: Dan Malloy, Tom Foley, Oz Greibel and Michael Fedele. Cost is \$10 per person; a continental breakfast will be served for guests. The event is open to the public but you must register at www.WindhamChamber.com or by calling the Chamber at 860.423.6389. There is limited seating so please register early.

Special Events

- *Mansfield Public Library*
 - On Tuesday July 13 at 7:00 PM, Eric Girardi will perform his show "Bending Gravity" at the Mansfield Public Library. Eric is a world-ranked yo-yo player, a juggler, a stiltwalker and more. He states that his objective is to "provide a one-of-a-kind breathtaking performance of object manipulation set to music." Eric also enjoys talking to kids about the importance of hard work, practice and finding something you love to do. His show is recommended for ages 5 and up.
 - On Tuesday July 20 at 2:00 PM, Kahana Hula will present their show "Make a Hawaiian Splash." This is an interactive program for all ages featuring music, stories and dance from beautiful Hawaii. Audience members will participate in sing-alongs, practice rhythmic skills and learn some Hawaiian hula. Because space is limited for this program, you must sign up in advance. Please call us at 860 423-2501 or drop in to the Library to reserve a free ticket.
- *Tour de Mansfield*: – The sixth annual [Tour de Mansfield: Village to Village](http://www.mansfieldct.gov) will be held this Saturday (rain date July 24). The 5, 20 and 40-mile rides will start and end at the Mansfield Community Center; the event will conclude with a barbecue. See www.mansfieldct.gov for more information.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, July 13, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, July 13, 2010, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Public Safety Committee, July 14, 2010, 3:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, July 14, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, July 15, 2010, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, July 19, 2010, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, July 19, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, July 21, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, July 26, 2010, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, July 26, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*